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MEMORANDUM

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DATE: September 6, 1962

TO: The Vice President

FROM: Colonel Burris

RE: Installations in Cuba

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NSC in 56/1973 to 2/3/1974  
By lmg, NARS, Date 6/20/1974

Efforts of the recently arrived group of Soviet technicians and equipment are already producing results. Nine surface-to-air missile sites have been rushed to completion in the western third of the island. These missiles have a range of about 25 miles and are effective up to 60,000 feet with a limited capability up to 80,000 feet. This group of missiles will be operational by September 10th. Several other similar installations are under construction on the island.

There appear to be approximately 3,000 Soviet technicians involved in the construction and training programs. They are expected to give the Cubans on-the-job training for approximately 9-12 months.

While the full range of military build-up and construction has not been reached, it appears that the additional bases are designed for defensive purposes. The Cubans may have begun to accept their own propaganda that a U.S. invasion is imminent. On the other hand, these aerial defenses could be designed to offer a degree of protection of other offensive installations or bases of operation to be installed at a later date.

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